

REMARKS

Consideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-58, 60 and 63-140 were pending. Claims 37-57 and 63-101 were withdrawn from consideration, and have been cancelled in the present amendment without prejudice. No claims have been amended or added. Accordingly, claims 1-36, 58, 60 and 102-140 are under consideration.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103 (Office Action ¶¶ 7-17)

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 10, 12, 14-21, 23-30, 32-36, 58, 60 and 102-114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buncke (U.S. 5,931,855) in view of Genova et al. (U.S. 7,225,512). Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection and instead for the express purpose of expediting examination of the present application, Applicants submit herewith a declaration in accordance with 37 CFR 1.132 establishing that any invention disclosed in Genova et al. was derived from the inventor of this application and therefore is not an invention "by another". Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103 (Office Action ¶¶ 18-20)

Claims 4, 13, 22, 31 and 115-140 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buncke (U.S. 5,931,855) and Genova et al. (U.S. 7,225,512) as applied to claims 1, 10, 19 and 28 above, and further in view of Ruff (U.S. 5,342,376). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reason. In connection with the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Buncke and Genova et al. as discussed above, Applicants submitted a declaration (the "Megaro Declaration") in accordance with 37 CFR 1.132, establishing that any invention disclosed by Genova et al. was derived from the inventor of this application and therefore is not an invention "by another". Applicants respectfully submit that the Megaro Declaration is equally relevant to the present rejection, so that the disclosure relied upon by the Examiner from Genova et al. is not available to support the present rejection. Without the disclosure of Genova et al., Applicants respectfully submit that the combined disclosures of Buncke and Ruff do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks and the Rule 132 Declaration, allowance of claims 1-36, 58, 60 and 102-140 is respectfully requested. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. However, should any further issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 216-4310 to resolve the same.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-2574.

Respectfully submitted,

/David W. Parker/
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Enclosure:
Rule 132 Declaration

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